

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
 (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT0423ND	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/011089	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.09.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G02B5/30		
Applicant NITTO DENKO CORPORATION		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.		
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.		
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 1 sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). 		
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 		

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, nos. 1 _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>5-7, 11-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-4, 8-10, 17-20</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-20</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2002-365432 A (Nitto Denko Corp.), 18

December 2002

Document 2: JP 7-198945 A (The Nippon Synthetic Chemical
Industry Co., Ltd.), 01 August 1995

Document 3: JP 2001-296426 A (Nitto Denko Corp.), 26
October 2001 & TW 500931 A & CN 1412579 A

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 4, 8 to 10 and 17 to 20 lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. The primer coat layer that is disclosed in document 1 (paragraphs [0022] to [0023]) employs an adhesive similar to that from the present invention, and thus said primer coat layer corresponds to the "adhesive layer" that is set forth in the abovementioned claims. In addition, the "adhesive solution" that is disclosed in document 1 (paragraph [0014]) is considered to include water in the light of the fact that said solution is an aqueous solution, and the water therein corresponds to the "aqueous liquid" that is set forth in the abovementioned claims. Furthermore, the transparent protective film and the polarizer are pasted together in a continuous manner and

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water is present upon the pasting surface during the pasting process in the invention that is disclosed in document 1; consequently, there is no substantial difference between the invention that is disclosed in document 1 and the inventions that are set forth in the abovementioned claims.

The inventions set forth in claims 5 to 7, 11 and 12 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 2 cited in the international search report. Document 2 discloses an adhesive for use in a polarization plate, said adhesive containing a crosslinking agent which is configured from a methylol compound and a polyvinyl alcohol-based adhesive that has acetoacetyl groups, and thus it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of employing such an adhesive in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

The inventions set forth in claims 13, 14 and 16 lack novelty or do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1. Document 1 (paragraph [0022]) discloses a feature wherein a primer coat layer (which corresponds to the "adhesive layer," as indicated above) is provided to the polarization film and/or the protective film, and thus document 1 can be considered to disclose configurations wherein the adhesive is only coated onto the transparent protective film or the polarizer. Furthermore, document 1 (fig. 2) also illustrates a configuration wherein the adhesive solution is supplied to the primer coat layer upon the protective film; therefore, there is no significant difference between the invention that is disclosed in document 1 and the inventions that are set forth in the abovementioned

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claims.

The invention set forth in claim 15 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1. Document 1 does not specifically disclose the feature wherein an aqueous liquid is supplied to the polarizer; however, given that the goal is to adhere the polarizer and the transparent protective film to one another, it can be said to be possible for a person skilled in the art to decide whether to supply the aqueous liquid to the polarizer or to the transparent protective layer, as appropriate.

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 4, 9, 10, 13 and 17 to 20 lack novelty or do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 3 cited in the international search report. Document 3 discloses a configuration wherein the water component is applied to the polarizer prior to the pasting process, and thus document 3 can be considered to disclose the feature wherein an "aqueous liquid is present upon the pasting surface," as is set forth in claim 1.

The inventions set forth in claims 5 to 8, 11 and 12 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 3 and document 2. Document 2 discloses an adhesive for use in a polarization plate, said adhesive containing a crosslinking agent which is configured from a methylol compound and a polyvinyl alcohol-based adhesive that has acetoacetyl groups, and thus it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of employing such an adhesive in the invention that is disclosed in document 3.

The inventions set forth in claims 14 and 15 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 3. In

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the invention that is disclosed in document 3, it is unclear whether or not the adhesive is only coated upon the transparent protective film; however, in general it is common practice when adhering two objects to only coat the adhesive agent upon one of the objects. Such being the case, it cannot be considered to have been especially difficult to employ such a configuration in order to configure the inventions that are set forth in the abovementioned claims.

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Box I.4

The amendments amend claim 1 so as to indicate that the aqueous liquid is an "aqueous liquid (that does not contain an adhesive)." On the other hand, although the description indicates that it is possible to use water or the like as the aqueous liquid (paragraph [0077]), it is impossible to find any disclosure indicating that the aqueous liquid does not include an adhesive. In addition, amended claim 1 sets forth a feature wherein an "aqueous liquid (that does not contain an adhesive) is present upon the pasting surface during the continuous pasting..." (emphasis added by the present preliminary examining authority), whereas it is apparent from the disclosures in the description and the drawings of the present application that both an adhesive and an aqueous liquid are present upon the pasting surface. Such being the case, the amendments in question can be said to go beyond the scope of the disclosures in the description of the present application as originally filed.